



Transitions

Helping Hands Tip Sheets



Did You Know?

As children experience successful transitions, the number of discipline problems decrease accordingly.

When the right transitions are planned for your group of children, they are easy!

For example: When thinking about choosing transitions, ask yourself why you are lining up. If you can safely move as a group, perhaps making a line is not the right transition for this group at this time.



Something to think about:

Save "lining up" for those times when it is absolutely necessary, such as a fire drill.

If lining up is necessary, try marching in a different way or singing a favorite song.

Points to consider:

- As you prepare for a transition, have children show you they are ready for the next activity by sitting on the floor in the circle time area.
- Children can finish getting ready by putting on some sun screen and a hat or putting on a jacket while in the circle time area.
- Staff can assist children with cleaning up and moving to the gathering area.
- Once most of the children are ready, invite children to join you at the door. As soon as you see that all the children are aware that it is time to go, begin to sing your walking song, and off you go!
- Keep an eye on the "slow-pokes" to make sure they follow you.

Helpful ideas to decrease "waiting time:"

As children lose interest in area, staff and/or children can begin to clean it up, this can save time when clean up time begins.

As snack or lunch time approaches, clean the tables and set them before hand washing time.

If you are ready for snack or lunch, and it is late, sing a favorite song or finger play. This can hold children's interest and they won't feel like they are "waiting."

Encourage children to help with the tasks necessary to get ready for the next activity.

Think about completing some tasks later, such as sweeping the floor after lunch. Could this wait until the children are resting?

Review your daily schedule. Think about changing some parts of your day around to shorten children's waiting times.